

## Message Text

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ACTION IO-13

INFO OCT-01 ARA-06 EUR-12 NEA-10 ISO-00 OES-06 OIC-02  
PM-04 NSC-05 SP-02 SS-15 CIAE-00 INR-07 NSAE-00 INT-05  
/088 W

-----150937Z 035995 /22

R 150645Z MAR 77

FM USINT BAGHDAD

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 4287

AMEMBASSY BUENOS AIRES

INFO AMEMBASSY ANKARA

AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS

AMEMBASSY TEHRAN

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: OCON, SENV, IZ, IR, SY, TU

SUBJECT: UN WATER CONFERENCE-POTENTIAL POLITICAL ISSUES

REF: BAGHDAD 0423

1. REFTEL OUTLINED SUMMARY OF RESULTS OF ECWA  
REGIONAL CONFERENCE HELD IN BAGHDAD AND SUGGESTED  
MAJOR ARAB-ISRAELI ISSUES NOT LIKELY TO BE BROUGHT  
UP AT MAR DEL PLATA CONFERENCE. IN VIEW MARCH 23  
STARTING DATE FOR CONFERENCE, POUCHED COPY OF GOI  
REPORT NOT LIKELY TO REACH CONCERNED ACTION ADDRESSEES IN TIME.  
USINT THEREFORE TRANSMITTING BY TELEGRAM FOLLOWING  
TEXT OF PORTION OF GOI PAPER OUTLING ITS POSITION ON USE OF  
WATERS FROM INTERNATIONAL RIVERS.

2. BEGIN TEXT:

IRAQ IS ALSO CALLING FOR THE ESTABLISHMENT OF AN  
INTERNATIONAL AGENCY TO RESOLVE PROBLEMS CONNECTED  
WITH THE NON-NAVIGATIONAL USES OF INTERNATIONAL  
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RIVERS AND, IN PARTICULAR, THE UTILIZATION OF THESE  
SOURCES FOR AGRICULTURAL, MUNICIPAL, INDUSTRIAL  
AND POWER GENERATION PURPOSES WITH THE PROVISION THAT  
NOCOUNTRY SHOULD USE SUCH WATERS IN A MANNER  
DETRIMENTAL TO THE INTERESTS OF OTHER REPARIAN  
COUNTIES IN RESPECT OF EITHER THE QUANTITY  
OR THE QUALITY OF THE WATER RELEASED. SOME

COUNTRIES ARE STILL ATTEMPTING TO DISREGARD THE CONCEPT OF THE PRECEDENCE OF COMMON RIGHTS OF OWNERSHIP OVER WATER RESOURCES AND ADOPTING A UNILATERAL APPROACH IN DEALING WITH WATER RESOURCES. IT WOULD BE USEFUL IN THIS CONTEXT TO STRESS THAT WATER FROM ALL SOURCES SHOULD BE CONSIDERED COMMON PROPERTY FOR THE USUFRUCTUARY BENEFIT OF ALL THE INHABITANTS OF THE SOURCE BASIN AND SHOULD NOT BE USED ABUSIVELY. WATER RESOURCES SHOULD BE PROTECTED FROM DETRIMENT AND CONSIDERATION SHOULD BE GIVEN TO THE COMPREHENSIVE PLANNING OF THE WATER RESOURCES OF INDIVIDUAL RIVERS. IN VIEW OF THE INCREASING REQUIREMENTS FOR WATER AND THE NEED TO REGULATE ITS UTILIZATION BY COUNTRIES SHARING AN INTERNATIONAL RIVER, WITH THE AIM OF AVERTING DISPUTES AND ASSERTING THE PRINCIPLES OF GOOD NEIGHBOURLINESS, AND BELIEVING THAT FRUITFUL CO-OPERATION WILL LEAD TO MORE POSITIVE RESULTS THAN ALLOWING DISPUTES TO BECOME AGGRAVATED, IRAQ INVITES BOTH SYRIA AND TURKEY TO ENTER INTO NEGOTIATIONS TO CONCLUDE AN AGREEMENT REGULATING THE USE OF THE WATERS OF THE EUPHRATES IN SUCH A WAY AS TO ENSURE RESPECT FOR ACQUIRED RIGHTS THEREIN AND ACHIEVE THE OPTIMUM UTILIZATION OF ITS WATERS FOR THE BENEFIT OF ALL PARTIES. IN THIS REGARD IT MIGHT ALSO BE WORTH WHILE TO MENTION CERTAIN GENERAL PRINCIPLES RELATING TO COMMON INTERNATIONAL RIVERS:

1. INTERNATIONAL RIVER - THIS IS A COMMON RIVER  
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WHICH SEPARATES OR CROSSES THE BORDERS OF TWO OR MORE COUNTRIES OR ONE WHICH FLOWS INTO THAT RIVER MAKING A SUBSTANTIAL CONTRIBUTION TO ITS FLOW. AN INTERNATIONAL RIVER IS CONSIDERED TO BE THE COMMON PROPERTY OF THE COUNTRIES THROUGH WHICH IT FLOWS AND TO CONSTITUTE, TOGETHER WITH ITS TRIBUTARIES, A NATURAL AND INDIVISIBLE UNIT FROM ITS SOURCE TO ITS MOUTH.

2. A RIVER'S WATER RESOURCES ARE MADE UP OF SURFACE AND GROUND WATER, WATER FROM TRIBUTARIES AND SPRINGS AND RAIN WATER.

3. NO RIPARIAN COUNTRY MAY EXPLOIT THE WATERS OF A COMMON RIVER IN ITS TERRITORY IN SUCH A WAY AS TO CAUSE SEVERE DETRIMENT TO ONE OR MORE OF THE OTHER RIPARIAN COUNTRIES.

END TEXT.

WILEY

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NNN

## Message Attributes

**Automatic Decaptioning:** X  
**Capture Date:** 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am  
**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Concepts:** WATER, MEETINGS  
**Control Number:** n/a  
**Copy:** SINGLE  
**Sent Date:** 15-Mar-1977 12:00:00 am  
**Decaption Date:** 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am  
**Decaption Note:**  
**Disposition Action:** RELEASED  
**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
**Disposition Case Number:** n/a  
**Disposition Comment:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
**Disposition Date:** 22 May 2009  
**Disposition Event:**  
**Disposition History:** n/a  
**Disposition Reason:**  
**Disposition Remarks:**  
**Document Number:** 1977BAGHDA00456  
**Document Source:** CORE  
**Document Unique ID:** 00  
**Drafter:** n/a  
**Enclosure:** n/a  
**Executive Order:** N/A  
**Errors:** N/A  
**Expiration:**  
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**Litigation Codes:**  
**Litigation History:**  
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**Message ID:** 253b7bb8-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc  
**Office:** ACTION IO  
**Original Classification:** LIMITED OFFICIAL USE  
**Original Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Original Previous Classification:** n/a  
**Original Previous Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Page Count:** 3  
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**Reference:** 77 BAGHDAD 423  
**Retention:** 0  
**Review Action:** RELEASED, APPROVED  
**Review Content Flags:**  
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**Review Event:**  
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**Review Media Identifier:**  
**Review Release Date:** n/a  
**Review Release Event:** n/a  
**Review Transfer Date:**  
**Review Withdrawn Fields:** n/a  
**SAS ID:** 3112077  
**Secure:** OPEN  
**Status:** NATIVE  
**Subject:** UN WATER CONFERENCE-POTENTIAL POLITICAL ISSUES  
**TAGS:** OCON, SENV, IZ, IR, SY, TU, UN  
**To:** STATE BUENOS AIRES  
**Type:** TE  
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**Review Markings:**  
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